

Morse's moguls moment

Duxbury native reflects
on his Olympic experience

By Ed Klajman
CORRESPONDENT

VANCOUVER – Although Duxbury's Michael Morse is disappointed with his 15th place finish in Sunday's Olympic moguls competition, he said he's not going to dwell on it and plans to spend the next two weeks at the Games "living it up" as much as he can.

"It's tough because my Olympics are over but in another sense it's just beginning, so I'm really excited about soaking in as much (of the Olympic experience) as I can," said the 28-year-old.

Morse explained that the problems in his competition began in the preliminary round, when he was drawn to go fourth out of the 30 skiers.

"It's always difficult to go that early because you don't know exactly what the judges are looking for," he said. "I think I skied pretty solid and I was happy about it, but I was a bit too conservative. It was a little tough to watch everyone come after that (and get better scores)."

Still, it was good enough to make it to the final round, though just barely, as he finished 19th, when only the top 20 skiers advanced to the final.

After what he described as a very good training run between the preliminary round and the final round, an early mistake in his last run sealed his fate.

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Duxbury's Mike Morse said about his Olympic experience, "I think I skied pretty solid and I was happy about it."

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"I made a mistake on my third turn and at this level that's pretty much it," he said, noting that he made another couple of mistakes after that, largely due to his rhythm being thrown off after the first error.

"It was definitely not the Olympic performance I had hoped for," he said. "I had been dreaming all my life of skiing my best – I had planned for years for this. I just wanted to do my best – and I think that's good enough to be in the top three."

While Canada's Alexandre Bilodeau won the gold, and Australia's Dale Begg-Smith got the silver, Morse said he was happy that his good friend Bryon Wilson gets to take home the bronze.

After spending the rest of his time in Vancouver enjoying the Olympic Village – he had been in a house near the venue leading up to his competition – and checking out some hockey, figure skating and alpine skiing, Morse will move on to Japan to continue with the World Cup circuit.



KILLINGTON MOUNTAIN SCHOOL MOGUL COACH AND FREESTYLE PROGRAM DIRECTOR DEB NEWSON, left, and KILLINGTON SKI CLUB/KILLINGTON MOUNTAIN SCHOOL COMPETITIONS PROGRAM DIRECTOR MATT GNOZA, right, stand with Olympian and Duxbury native Michael Morse, center, who finished 15th in the men's moguls competition earlier this week at the Vancouver Olympics.

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